

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A stencil printing machine comprising:

a plurality of printing drums;

5 a control section controlling a stencil printing process so that even if the printing drum that is not used in the current stencil printing process is in an error state, the stencil printing process is performed by using other printing drums.

10 2. The stencil printing machine according to claim 1, further comprises:

a printing drum absence detection section comprising detectors provided to a corresponding printing drum detecting whether or not each of the printing drums is mounted in the stencil printing machine;

15 a discharged stencil sheet box absence detection section comprising detectors provided to a corresponding printing drum detecting whether or not the discharged stencil sheet box is mounted in the corresponding printing drum; and

20 a discharged stencil sheet box full detection section comprising detectors provided to a corresponding discharged stencil sheet box detecting whether or not the discharged stencil sheet box is filled with used stencil sheets,

wherein each printing drum further comprises:

25 an ink container detection section detecting whether or not the ink container is mounted in the corresponding printing drum; and

an ink sensor section detecting whether or not an ink is filled in the corresponding ink container in the printing drum,

30 wherein the control section controls the stencil printing process based on detection results of the above detection sections.

35 3. The stencil printing machine according to claim 1, further comprises an operation panel displaying error information and

through which a user selects one or more the printing drums to be used in the stencil printing process and instructs to initiate the stencil printing process,

wherein the operation panel comprises at least one of the display sections to inform following error states for each printing drum to the user:

no printing drum is mounted;

no ink container is mounted;

ink container is empty;

no discharged stencil sheet box is mounted; and

discharged stencil sheet box is filled with discharged stencil sheets.

4. A control method of a stencil printing machine having a plurality of printing drums, comprising a control step that even if the printing drum that is not used in the current stencil printing process is in an error state, the stencil printing process is performed by using other printing drums.

5. A control method of a stencil printing machine at least two printing drums executing a mono-color and multi-color printing process, comprising:

a control step that even if the printing drum that is not used in the current stencil printing process in the mono-color printing process is in an error state, the mono-color printing process is performed by using other printing drums.